

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /073 W

-----029300 192206Z /70

P R 190850Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6489

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 7945

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJ: PREVIEW OF ROK NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

SUMMARY: ROK NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES FOR THREE-MONTH SESSION TOMORROW (SEPT 20) WITH OPPOSITION NDP BRACING TO PUSH GOVERNMENT ON POPULAR TOPICS SUCH AS PAK TONG-SON CASE, U.S. COMMITMENT TO ROK NATIONAL SECURITY, AND TAX REVISION. FATE OF NDP PLAN FOR ELECTORAL REFORM IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

1. KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) WILL CONVENE FOR ITS 98TH REGULAR SESSION SEPTEMBER 20. WITH THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS SESSION BY SPEAKER CHONG IL-GWON ON SEPTEMBER 13, FLOOR LEADERS FROM THE RULING CAMP (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY (DRP) AND THE YUJONG-HOE (APPOINTED MEMBERS)) AND THE OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) BEGAN MEETINGS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AGENDA FOR SESSION.

2. ALTHOUGH NEARLY ONE WEEK HAS PASSED, THE TWO SIDES  
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HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE NUMBER OF AGENDA ITEMS. RULING CAMP PROPOSES THREE ITEMS (SECURITY AND DIPLOMACY, ECONOMICS, AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS) AND SIX DAYS FOR INTERPELLATION OF GOVERNMENT MINISTERS IN PLENARY SESSION, WHEREAS THE NDP ADVOCATES ADDING "POLITICAL AFFAIRS" AS A FOURTH ITEM AND ALLOWING TEN DAYS FOR INTERPELLATIONS. SEVERAL VERNACULAR PAPERS SPECULATED

OVER THE WEEKEND THAT TWO SIDES ARE LIKELY TO COMPROMISE  
ON THREE ITEMS FOR AGENDA AND EIGHT DAYS FOR INTERPELLATION.

3. DISAGREEMENT OVER AGENDA IS HARDLY CRIPPLING, HOWEVER.  
AS ONLY BRIEF OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER  
20, AND BALANCE OF THE MONTH WILL BE DEVOTED TO GOVERNMENT  
BRIEFINGS (BY CABINET MINISTERS) TO EACH OF 13 STANDING  
COMMITTEES. ASSEMBLY WILL RECEIVE ITS MAJOR ASSIGNMENT  
WHEN PRIME MINISTER PRESENTS REGULAR BUDGET (NOW SCALED  
AT 3.55 TRILLION WON OR ABOUT \$7.4 BILLION) FOR 1978  
ON OCTOBER 4. INTERPELLATION WILL FOLLOW. AFTER  
INTERPELLATIONS, BUDGET WILL GO TO COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND  
SETTLEMENT FOR MORE INTERPELLATIONS AND APPROVAL.  
PLENARY SESSION IS SCHEDULED TO PASS BUDGET BY DECEMBER 2.  
ASSEMBLY WILL END WITH FINAL PLENARY SESSION (DECEMBER  
14-17), IN WHICH OTHER GOVERNMENT-PROPOSED AND POLITICAL  
BILLS ARE VOTED ON.

4. POSITION OF RULING CAMP IS BASICALLY TO CONCENTRATE  
ON DELIBERATION OF THE BUDGET AND TO RESTRICT INTER-  
PELLATION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SIX DAYS. THE  
RULING LAW MAKERS WILL TRY TO PREVENT THE OPPOSITION  
FROM RAISING POLITICAL ISSUES OR MAKING SPEECHES ABOUT  
THE YUSIN SYSTEM.

5. NDP LEADER YI CH'OL-SUNG HAS ANNOUNCED HE WILL  
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HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 23 TO ANNOUNCE PARTY  
POLICY AND STRATEGY FOR THE SESSION. MEETING OF ALL  
NDP ASSEMBLYMEN SEPTEMBER 16 ANNOUNCED AS ITS GOALS  
(A) ACTIVATION OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, (B) INSPEC-  
TION OF DEFECTS OF DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY, (C) RE-ADJUST-  
MENT OF ECONOMIC ORDER, AND (D) STRENGTHENING OF ADMIN-  
ISTRATIVE INSPECTION BY NA. PRIVATE INDICATIONS ARE  
THAT NDP WILL BRING UP FOLLOWING SOMEWHAT SENSITIVE  
TOPICS IN INTERPELLATIONS: PAK TONG-SON AND KIM HYONG-UK  
CASES, ANTI-ROK ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN PRESS AND KOREANS  
RESIDENT ABROAD, AND RELATION OF PRM-10 TO ROK SECURITY.

6. ULTIMATE FATE OF NDP PROPOSAL FOR REVISION OF ELECTION  
LAWS IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN THIS SESSION. NDP  
ASSEMBLYMEN AT 9/16 MEETING RESOLVED TO CONCENTRATE  
ON THIS SUBJECT, AMONG OTHERS. EIGHT-MAN PARTY SUB-  
COMMITTEE HAS COME UP WITH TWO ALTERNATIVE PLANS FOR  
AMENDING ELECTION LAWS, BUT EM-9 RESTRICTIONS PREVENT  
ANY DISCUSSION IN THE PRESS OF TERMS OF THEIR PROPOSALS.

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 DHA-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /073 W  
-----029570 192208Z /70

P R 190850Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6490  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SEOUL 7945

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

ASSEMBLYMAN HAN PYONG-CH'AE, ONE OF TWO LAWYERS WHO DRAFTED SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, HAS TOLD EMBOFFS THAT HIS DRAFTS ENVISAGE AMENDING PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AS WELL AS ELECTION LAWS FOR POLITICAL PARTIES, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND NATIONAL UNIFICATION CONFERENCE (NUC). LATTER PROPOSAL, HOWEVER, WHICH ENVISAGES ALLOWING NUC DELEGATES TO PLEDGE THEMSELVES PUBLICLY TO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES DURING THEIR CAMPAIGNS, WOULD REQUIRE REVISION OF PRESENT YUSIN CONSTITUTION AND THUS MAY NOT BE DISCUSSED UNDER TERMS OF EM-9. IN ADDITION TO PROPOSING CHANGES IN ELECTORAL SYSTEM, HAN INDICATED, NDP WILL PROPOSE SPLITTING THE FOUR LARGEST NA ELECTION DISTRICTS (THE THREE IN SEOUL AND ONE IN PUSAN WHICH HAVE POPULATIONS OF OVER ONE MILLION). THIS WOULD MEAN EIGHT MORE ELECTED ASSEMBLYMEN (DISTRICTS ARE EACH TWO-MAN ONES) AND FOUR MORE YUJONG-HOE ASSEMBLYMEN.

7. IN ADDITION, ONE LONG-TIME OBSERVER SUGGESTS, NDP IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO CALL FOR CHANGES IN VALUE-ADDED TAX, RESURRECTING ITS SUGGESTION OF LAST SESSION TO REDUCE BASIC RATE FROM PRESENT THIRTEEN PERCENT  
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(PLUS OR MINUS THREE PERCENT) TO TEN PERCENT (PLUS OR MINUS THREE PERCENT). AS IN THE PAST, NDP MAY ALSO

MAKE CAREFULLY WORDED PROPOSITION FOR FORMATION OF  
JOINT RULING-AND-OPPOSITION SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
TO REVIEW CONSTITUTION. CHANCES FOR SUCCESS OF ANY  
SUCH PROPOSAL (AN ATTEMPT AT MODIFYING PRESENT  
CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM) ARE SLIM.

8. DPM NAM TOLD AMBASSADOR HE EXPECTS HEAVY NA FOCUS ON  
ECONOMIC ISSUES, PARTICULARLY VAT, IN EFFORT TO DIVERT NDP  
FROM ORE CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL ISSUES.  
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